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Domestic Service. By LUCY MAYNARD SALMON. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1897. Pp. 307. \$2.

PROFESSOR SALMON has been toiling patiently for years at the problem of domestic service, and has furnished a distinct contribution to the history of the family institution in America. The first step taken was a careful investigation, by means of 5000 statistical schedules, of the conditions affecting 1025 employers and 2545 employés. The national census and many labor-bureau reports have been used for checking or extending the generalizations. Of course it was impossible to make an exhaustive inquiry, but the study of typical cases is thoroughly done and the inductive process seems to be reliable and trustworthy.

The effort is made to lift the whole inquiry above its present level of mere personal gossip, complaint, and recrimination into the clear atmosphere of history and social science.

There is a broad survey of the various phases through which household industry has passed during the colonial period and up to our own day. The redemptioners, slaves, native "help," and recent "servants," Irish, German, Chinese, negro, and all other elements are described and their place assigned.

Economic changes, new political ideals, democratic feelings have made the old methods of employment intolerable. Mere personal devices and "tipping" will not cure the deep sore. Radical changes are recommended, all of them in the direction of natural social development. The specialization and socialization of household industry is insisted upon as the central principle. Domestic service must be brought under the control of business methods. Household science and art must be lifted to their true place of social dignity by being given a position as a learned profession.

Dean Talbot's judgment is expressed in the following note:

"One of the most suggestive and admirable chapters in Miss Salmon's notable book is that entitled Education in Household Affairs. Here the keynote of the whole book is sounded as the author points out that progress in solving the problems of the household is not to be attained by instinct and blind tradition, but by study, training, and investigation. It is a mere commonplace that 'woman's sphere is the household,' and yet how many women are there who enter upon its duties with any real idea of their significance? As Miss

Salmon says, 'Few women when they assume the care of a household know the exact value of the household plant.' In this field of domestic service, for instance, how many housekeepers know, even after years of experience, what the actual cost of domestic service is beyond the mere weekly wages? The cost of the food supply of the servants, the waste of the family food supply through the negligence of servants, the breakage of china, the maintenance of servants' quarters, the price of laundry supplies for their use are among the items whose cost is not known and is consequently ignored in estimating the expenditures of a proposed household.

"It is encouraging to note the increasing signs that opportunity will eventually be afforded in this country for the investigation of household problems, and that the systematic, technical training for which Miss Salmon pleads is not long to be a mere dream. The courses offered at The University of Chicago and Leland Stanford Jr. University are tending in the direction which Miss Salmon indicates. The sad commentary upon the present situation is that there are undoubtedly more men than women in favor of systematic education in household affairs, and it would not be surprising also if the value of Miss Salmon's book should be more generally recognized by men than by women."

C. R. HENDERSON.

Problèmes Sociaux Contemporains. Par ACHILLE LORIA. Paris : V. Giard et E. Brière, 1897. Pp. 174.

THE eminent economist, author of *Analisi della Proprietà Capitalista*, publishes some lectures of a popular character on burning questions of the day: The Social Question, Liberty, Property, Population, Socialism, Social Darwinism, Evolution, Revolution. The fundamental ideas of the writer are presented in a very fascinating literary form, but without the advantage of explanation and modification possible in his more severe works addressed to specialists. A brief abstract of the lectures is here attempted.

The social question is not a religious question. That has been solved by securing freedom of worship to all; it is no longer in litigation. The social question is not a political question; all modern governments are really democratic, and the contest between prince and people is over. The social question is essentially economic. It has arisen because the actual economic state of the people is in flagrant